

Catalogue

Mertz and Gjerdevik – On the Road Again

Catalogue published in connection with the exhibition *Mertz and Gjerdevik – On the Road Again* at Stalke Galleri.

The catalogue accompanies the exhibition bringing together works by Albert Mertz and Nils Erik Gjerdevik. The publication includes a text by Jacob Lillemose and documents a dialogue between the two artists, articulated through installation, painting, and spatial intervention.

The exhibition was conceived as a meeting across generations and artistic positions. Mertz's works from the 1970s and 1980s were presented in close relation to Gjerdevik's wall-based installations, creating a shared visual and conceptual field. Color, structure, and compositional rhythm function as points of connection, allowing for a renewed reading of Mertz's work through a contemporary lens while situating Gjerdevik's practice in dialogue with a historical framework.



Mertz and Gjerdevik – On the Road Again
Stalke Galleri
31 January – 7 March 2003

Text: Jacob Lillemose
Design: Kristian Jakobsen

Publisher: Stalke Galleri and Sam Jedig

Edition: 500

Pages: 24
ISBN: 87-90538-16-1

Selected pages from the catalogue *Mertz and Gjerdevik – On the Road Again*, published by Stalke Galleri. The pages present installation views and reproductions of works alongside excerpts from Jacob Lillemose's text, reflecting on the exhibition as a spatial and conceptual encounter between the two artists.

MERTZ AND GJERDEVIK - ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Scenario 1

Imagine Danish post-war art as a two-lane highway. One lane is formalistic and packed with cars driving towards the specific qualities of the medium whether it is the flat surface of the canvas or the spatiality of the sculptural object. In the other lane the directions of the cars are more expressionistic as they head for the psychological nature of the modern individual. In this generalization and art historical piece of fiction further try to imagine a little car, maybe blue and red, driving in-between the two lanes. Sometimes even in the ruff on the outside of the lanes. Crossing back and forth. The driver is Albert Mertz and in the car with him is Norwegian born Nils Erik Gjerdevik. Gjerdevik's multi-colored is parked a little fur-

ther up the road. He likes to take these rides with Mertz. Together the two of them/they look at and talk about the cars of Danish art they pass on their way. Sometimes Gjerdevik thinks of it like being in a movie or flying in a satellite high above the events, but still being able to focus on even the most negligible details by using the high-mentality equipment that comes as standard in Mertz's car. The Mertz-mobile. And although Mertz often breaks the traffic laws with his reckless slalom driving, Gjerdevik sits confidently in his co-driver seat thinking that this is a fun way to avoid the heavy traffic in the two main lanes.

▶ the atmosphere in the living room is lively

